

AT THE BOOK DEPOSITORY

Statements of Witnesses - Danny G. ARCE
Deposition - April 7, 1964, 6 H 363-7

Arce went to work for the Book Depository in Sept. 1963 as an order filler in the other warehouse of the Book Depository. (p.363) He was sent to the Book Depository Bldg. on Elm Street to help lay floor on the sixth floor. (Although Oswald was a relatively new employee, is it not indicative of the relatively high opinion the employer had of him because he was kept filling book orders while others, including several who had considerably more seniority and experience, were put to laying the floor?)

On Oswald's eating habits:

"Mr. Ball. Did you ever eat lunch with him?

Mr. Arce. We all eat lunch together in this little domino room. We play dominoes and eat our lunch. He might walk in and lay around with us and he would walk out. He didn't stay in there too long. I guess he didn't like crowds." (p.364)

And on Oswald at the elevator on Nov. 22nd;

"Mr. Ball. Did you see Lee Oswald or hear him speak on the way down?

Mr. Arce. Yeah, he was up there and I believe someone asked if he wanted to go down.

Mr. Ball. He was there - on what floor? (p.364)

Mr. Arce. That's what I'm not too sure; I believe he was on five or the sixth floor. I am not too sure but we were going down and I believe he was on the fifth; I am not too sure.

Mr. Ball. What did you hear?

Mr. Arce. He said 'You all close the door on the elevator, I will be down,' or somethin'. I didn't pay too much attention. He said to leave the elevator come down." (p.365)

Arce and others have testified to this incident in substantially the same terms. To impute anything sinister to it is to indicate either that Oswald was pressed for time, that the good half-hour between the time of the elevator incident and the time the motorcade was due was less time than he might have required for preparing for the assassination, and there is no reason to presume that. The only reasonable presumption is the obvious one: That he had need for the elevator to carry his order down or desired to use ~~it~~ it in leaving for lunch himself. I have seen no reference to ~~whether~~ or not he left any unfilled and unmailed orders. By this I mean, had he collected the books required by those invoices on which he had worked? The Commission has only asked of Truly, would it be possible to find out how much work Oswald had done that morning. It has avoided asking those who wrapped the orders whether Oswald had, as a matter of fact, been collecting them and fulfilling his work up to the moment of, or even perhaps after, the beginning of the lunch hour. I have already pointed out that it has avoided, as far as I have seen the inquiry along these lines, any reference to the separate Scott, Foresman invoices or other records.

Like almost everybody else, Arce thought the sound came from outside the building:

"Mr. Ball. Where did you make out the direction of the sound?

Mr. Arce. Yeah, I thought they came from the railroad tracks to the west of the Texas School Book Depository." (p.365)

And most of those asked thought the shots came from this general area. (p.365)

The subject comes up again, and Arce is even more specific:

"Mr. Ball. Now, it sounded to you that the shots came from what direction?

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Mr. Arce. From the tracks on the west deal.

Mr. Ball. How many shots did you hear?

Mr. Arce. Three.

Mr. Ball. Did you look back at the building¹?

Mr. Arce. No, I didn't think they came from there. I just looked directly to the railroad tracks and all the people started running up there and I just ran along with them." (p.366)